

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 135990  
ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 HA-05 AID-05 SS-15  
SP-02 NSC-05 PA-01 ICA-11 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00  
/089 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:JACOON:DE  
APPROVED BY NEA:HHAUNDERS  
IO/UNP:FTATU (SUBS)  
IO/AGR:PBURNES (SUBS)  
HA/HR:OJONES (INFO)  
AID/OFDA:RCLARY (INFO)  
-----007440 272303Z /66  
R 272233Z MAY 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY DACCA  
INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 135990

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, SREF, PORG, BG, BM

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR SIDDIQI'S CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
SAUNDERS

1. AMBASSADOR SIDDIQI ON INSTRUCTIONS CALLED ON ASSISTANT  
SECRETARY SAUNDERS MAY 24 TO DISCUSS THE ARAKANESE MUSLIM  
PROBLEM. SIDDIQI SAID OVER 150,000 HAD CROSSED THE BORDER  
FROM BURMA AND THOUSANDS MORE WERE COMING DAILY. HE CON-  
TENDED THAT THEY WERE BURMESE NATIONALS AND SPEAK BURMESE.  
BURMESE FORCES HAD ENGAGED IN RAPE, LOOTING AND BURNING OF  
VILLAGES. THE BDG HAS ASKED FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH BURMA AND  
OFFERED TO SEND A DIPLOMATIC DELEGATION TO RANGOON, BUT  
THERE HAS BEEN NO FAVORABLE RESPONSE FROM THE GOB.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 135990

2. SIDDIQI SAID HIS GOVERNMENT NEEDED OUR ASSISTANCE IN  
TWO WAYS: (1) HUMANITARIAN AID FOR THE PEOPLE INVOLVED, AND  
(2) POLITICAL ASSISTANCE IN SETTLING THE PROBLEM ITSELF.  
IN REGARD TO THE FORMER, SIDDIQI SAID THE UN SECGEN HAD  
NOMINATED THE UNHCR TO FACILITATE RELIEF. THE BDG PARTICU-  
LARLY NEEDS FOOD AND SHELTER, SUCH AS TENTS. MR. SAUNDERS  
RESPONDED THAT WE HAD ALREADY BEEN LOOKING INTO WAYS OF

PROVIDING HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND WE WOULD URGENTLY ADDRESS THE PROBLEM. HE SUGGESTED THAT SPECIFIC REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE BE COORDINATED IN DACCA, BUT WE WOULD KEEP

THE BANGLADESHIS HERE FULLY INFORMED.

3. IN REGARD TO POINT 2, SIDDIQI ELABORATED BY SAYING THAT THE BDG PARTICULARLY LOOKED TO US BECAUSE OF OUR CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND HE NOTED THAT THE ACTIONS OF THE BURMESE CONSTITUTED A VERY SERIOUS VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. MR. SAUNDERS POINTED OUT THAT WE DO NOT HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF INFLUENCE WITH THE BURMESE GOVERNMENT AND PERHAPS THE UNHCR COULD PLAY A USEFUL ROLE. WE WOULD, OF COURSE, CONSIDER THE AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST.

4. AMBASSADOR SIDDIQI THEN TURNED TO THE QUESTION OF BANGLADESH'S CANDIDATURE FOR A SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT, POINTING OUT THAT THE ISLAMIC GROUP HAD ENDORSED BANGLADESH AND THE ASIAN GROUP WILL BE MEETING LATER TO CONSIDER THE MATTER. JAPAN IS ALSO A CANDIDATE, BUT IT HAS ALREADY HAD A TURN RECENTLY. MR. SAUNDERS REPLIED THAT FOLLOWING OUR REGULAR POLICY ON THESE MATTERS, WE WOULD WAIT FOR THE DECISION OF THE REGIONAL GROUP.

5. AMBASSADOR SIDDIQI DESCRIBED AN FAO PROPOSAL FOR A REGIONAL CENTER OF INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 135990

BANGLADESH, WHICH WILL BE CONSIDERED IN A FAO REGIONAL MEETING IN KUALA LAMPUR IN JUNE. WHEN AND IF THIS PROPOSAL COMES UP IN THE FAO GOVERNING BODIES, HE HOPES WE WILL SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS CENTER IN BANGLADESH.

6. FINALLY, AMBASSADOR SIDDIQI NOTED THAT THE BANGLADESHIS HAVE "HEARD RUMORS" THAT THE US CANDIDATE, MAURICE WILLIAMS, MAY WITHDRAW FROM THE CONTEST TO HEAD THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL. IF THIS IS THE CASE, SIDDIQI HOPED THE US WOULD SUPPORT THE BANGLADESH CANDIDATE, SALAHUDDIN AHMED. ON BOTH THE LATTER POINTS, MR. SAUNDERS AGREED TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER. FYI - WILLIAMS HAS ABSOLUTELY NO INTENTION OF DROPPING OUT OF THE RACE AND WE WILL BE SO INFORMING AMBASSADOR SIDDIQI. CHRISTOPHER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN



## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEES, MOSLEMS, AMBASSADORS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE135990  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** JACCOON:DE  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780225-0084  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780510/aaaaaina.tel  
**Line Count:** 108  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 39294693-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2509319  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AMBASSADOR SIDDIQI'S CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAUNDERS  
**TAGS:** PEPR, SREF, PORG, BG, BM  
**To:** DACCA  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/39294693-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014